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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T.W. Bish et al. Examiner: Mohammad Ali
Serial No.: 09/436,506 Group Art Unit: 2177
Filed: November 9, 1999 Docket No.: TU999036
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING DATA FROM
STORAGE SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 30, 2004.

David W. Victor

AMENDMENT

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APR 07 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This amendment is submitted in response to the non-Final Office Action dated December 30, 2003 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of cited prior art. Applicants have amended certain claims to further distinguish over the cited art. Applicants traverse the prior art rejections and submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein.

Amendment to the claims begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10.